

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 15, 16, 19, 22, 24, 28, 32 and 35 are currently being amended. Support for the amendments to independent claims 15 and 28 can be found at least in the specification on page 11, lines 5-12 and on page 12, lines 4-12. No new matter has been added

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 15-40 remain pending in this application.

Claim objections

Claims 16, 19, 22, 29, 32 and 35 were objected to for informalities. In general, the claims have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action.¹ With respect to claim 29, however, applicants note that claim 28, from which claim 29 depends, provides antecedent basis for “the target”, “the photographic subject area” and “the multiple directions.” Accordingly, applicants submit that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 15-17, 20, 21, 24, 28-30, 33, 34 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,359,647 to Sengupta et al. (“Sengupta”). Claims 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-27, 31, 32, 35, 36 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Sengupta in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,124,427 to Esbensen

¹ It appears that the Patent Office intended to object to claim 35 instead of claim 25, because claim 35 includes the phrase “the sensors”, not claim 25.

et al. (“Esbensen”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 15, as amended, recites:

An autonomous operation control system comprising:

a monitoring apparatus that is provided at a first remote location, and acquires image information on a photographic subject, the monitoring apparatus including

a shooting unit that performs shooting of the photographic subject;

a photographic-subject detecting unit that detects the photographic subject; and

a signal generating unit that generates a plurality of signals, the plurality of signals includes an unpleasant noise, an alarm, a flash, a communication signal for communicating to a person in a neighborhood, a laser light for detecting an intruder, and a signal source for measuring the Doppler effect as well as a distance to a target, a wind direction, and a wind velocity using radar or sonar; and

an autonomous operation controller that is provided at a second remote location, and remotely controls the monitoring apparatus, wherein

the autonomous operation controller includes a function of automatically operating a plurality of shooting units and a plurality of signal generating units based on photographic information acquired by the monitoring apparatus to photograph an image and generate a signal, wherein

the monitoring apparatus further includes a function of monitoring animals and plants, a function of observing weather, and a function as a garden light or a street light.

Neither Sengupta nor Esbensen discloses a monitoring apparatus with the functions recited in the above italicized portion of claim 15, and thus fail to suggest the invention as claimed even if combined.

Sengupta discloses a system with a controller 130 which effects the control of camera 101, 102, 103 based on inputs from sensors 111, 112 (FIG. 1, col. 3, lines 18-22). The optional alarm sensors 111, 112 provide for an automatic camera selection when an alarm condition is sensed (col. 3, lines 31-32).

Sengupta, however, does not disclose a monitoring apparatus with the functions of “a signal generating unit that generates a plurality of signals, the plurality of signals includes an unpleasant noise, an alarm, a flash, a communication signal for communicating to a person in a neighborhood, a laser light for detecting an intruder, and a signal source for measuring the Doppler effect as well as a distance to a target, a wind direction, and a wind velocity using radar or sonar”, or “the monitoring apparatus further includes a function of monitoring animals and plants, a function of observing weather, and a function as a garden light or a street light” as recited in claim 15. Esbensen fails to cure the deficiencies of Sengupta, and thus even if combined, Sengupta and Esbensen fail to disclose all the features of claim 15.

Independent claim 28 includes features corresponding to those discussed above with respect to claim 15, and is thus likewise patentable over Sengupta and Esbensen.

The dependent claims depend from one of independent claims 15 and 28, and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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